

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ting Chao on January 26, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the condition of a pump the method comprising the steps of:

generating a predetermined test condition in the pump, comprising generating and sustaining for a substantial period of time an abnormal pump speed outside a range of normal pump operation speed whereby the pump is subject to an increased stress as compared with normal operating stresses, thereby causing a reduction in clearance between a rotor and a stator of the pump; and

obtaining signals indicative of an amount of the clearance between the rotor and the stator of the pump during a period in which the test condition is present, wherein the signals are derived from a current consumed by a motor driving the rotor of the pump₁[[.]]

wherein the reduction in clearance is caused by the steps of causing a predetermined reduction in rotor rotation speed from a selected speed for a

predetermined period of time and then causing a predetermined increase in rotor rotation speed above the selected speed for a predetermined period of time.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Cancelled).

32. (Currently amended) Apparatus claimed in claim ~~34~~1, wherein the sensing device comprises a current sensing device for sensing current consumed by the ~~supplied to a~~ motor that drives the pump.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Cancelled).

36. (Cancelled).

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Cancelled).

39. (Cancelled).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NASHMIYA FAYYAZ whose telephone number is (571)272-2192. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on 571-272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hezron Williams/
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Unit 2856

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Examiner, Art Unit 2856

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